



**Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL BOB COOPER REGARDING APPEAL
IN PAUL HOUSE CAPITAL CASE:**

“Our Office today filed a notice of appeal in the capital case against Paul Gregory House. The appeal notice is in response to the judgment of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee granting House habeas corpus relief from his conviction and death sentence for the 1985 murder of Mrs. Carolyn Muncey.

“It is the position of the State that the district court did not follow the United States Supreme Court’s precedents in this area. The State will argue on appeal that the district court erred in concluding that House failed to receive effective assistance of counsel at his criminal trial. The State will also argue that the district court was wrong to conclude that material evidence may have been withheld from defense counsel. Finally, the State will contend that there is sufficient evidence of guilt to support the jury’s verdict and that none of the alleged errors attributed to defense counsel and the State call into question the reliability of the jury’s guilty verdict and sentence.

“In light of the United States Supreme Court’s opinion in this case, the State believes that this matter should be resolved as expeditiously as possible. Accordingly, the State sought prompt resolution of the habeas corpus petition before the trial court, and the State will ask the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to expedite the appeal. The State has invited the defendant’s counsel to join in that motion.”

(NOTE TO EDITORS: A copy of the documents filed can be obtained by calling Sharon Curtis-Flair at 615-741-5860.)